

# THE GARZETTE



Volume 17, Issue 08

147.075+

444.525+5mhz

53.110 -1mhz

## From the Presidents Mic!



QST! QST! de **WA4ZXV, Norm Schklar**

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Field day was a great success. Thanks to everyone that participated. We had reasonable scores, great food and a lot of visitors. I'm not as young as I once was, but I'm still trucking through the weekend of amateur radio fun. I hope you enjoyed the activities as much as I did. If you have suggestions for next year, let's hear them. Just send a note to me or David or Earl, or any of the executive group. As always, I've got ideas. First is having a lesson in how contests work and how to maximize contacts. Then we need to work on scheduling operators to be sure we have the right number of folks at the right time. There are several "tricks of the trade" that we've missed in our pre Field Day briefings. But that's for next year!

**TechFest** is closer than most of us think. January will get here really quick. For those of you that aren't familiar with **TechFest**, its GARS annual Hamfest with emphasis on demonstrating the multiple aspects of amateur radio to hams and non hams. We put on demonstrations and have some experts available to answer questions. We invite other clubs to come show their wares and the ARRL usually sets up a table to introduce Division and Section officials as well as hand out membership applications. Just like most everything else we do, it's a lot of work. But the return is a great winter get together for local hams. Early in the morning we'll have an outside tailgate (area where amateur radio items can be sold, traded or talked about). So hold on to a piece or two for the sale. We hope to schedule a couple real classroom style learning activities, and as usual, we'll server burgers and dogs for lunch. Oh yes, there's the chili cook off. Hams are invited to bring in a pot of chili to be judged by the official chili tasters. After the contest, we'll open up the pots for sampling. If you would, spread the word about **TechFest** to your friends at both radio oriented and non radio oriented events. You just never know which of your friends or associates may be interested and looking for a chance to see amateur radio in action.

We've got several events scheduled over the next few months. We'll be working the Dog Show in August , Scout Weblos Woods in September, Scout Fall Camporee in November, the Simulated Emergency Test in October. We will also be setting up a table and helping with the youth lounge at the Alford Memorial Hamfest November 1 & 2.

73 es hp to cu sn de Norm, WA4ZXV

# August 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 0730 breakfast
3	4 2000 2m net	5	6 2100 6m net	7	8	9 0730 breakfast
10	11 2000 2m net	12	13 2100 6m net	14	15	16 0730 breakfast
17	18 2000 2m net	19	20 2100 6m net	21	22	23 0730 breakfast Field Day
24	25 2000 2m net	26	27 2100 6m net	28	29 August	30 0730 breakfast
31	1 Sept.	2	3 2100 6m net	4	5	6 0730 breakfast

## GARS Recurring Calendar

- Monthly club meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. Check the Web Site for Location.
- Every Monday at 8 PM local time: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 2 meter repeater
- Every Wednesday at 9 PM local time: GARS 6 meter net on the GARS 6 meter repeater
- Every Saturday at 7:30 AM local time: GARS Weekly Family Breakfast, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Lawrenceville

## The GARZETTE

*The GARZETTE* is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word format or email to [ka4kkf@arrl.net](mailto:ka4kkf@arrl.net). Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via email to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary. In keeping with the amateur radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of *The GARZETTE* articles by other amateur radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and to *The GARZETTE*.

The GARZETTE is published each month with the assistance of Hal Manning, who prints the news letter. Rick Patchin, KD4RFK does the final production work on *The GARZETTE* by folding & labeling. Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN, stamps and gets the end product to the Post Office each month. Norm Schklar, wa4zxv, manages email delivery. Many thanks to each of them and all article contributors.

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For any additional information contact:  
Newsletter Editor:

David Adcock ka4kkf  
(770-271-9398)  
[ka4kkf@arrl.net](mailto:ka4kkf@arrl.net)

All correspondence relating to articles posted in *The GARZETTE* or for information concerning advertising rates should be directed to the following address:

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
P.O. Box 88  
Lilburn, GA 30048  
Attn: Newsletter Editor

## GARS Communication System

Do you know a boy or girl  
14 to 21 years old  
who wants to:

Climb, Hike  
Canoe, Camp  
Talk on an amateur radio  
Have Fun  
Tell them about

## **Venture Crew 73**

**We meet the second Tuesday  
of each Month at 7:00PM  
prior to the GARS meeting at  
St. Marguerite D'Youville  
Church..**

For more information Visit  
[www.gars.org/crew73](http://www.gars.org/crew73)  
or contact Ray Back:

Email [crew73@gars.org](mailto:crew73@gars.org)  
Phone (770) 295-9174

### 70 Cm Repeater

444.525(+) MHz  
82.5 PL Tone

### APRS

144.390 -- 1200 Baud  
W4GR

### 6 Meter Repeater

53.110 (-1 MHz)  
82.5 PL Tone

### D-Star

### WD4STR

146.970 - (600KHZ)  
440.550 + (5MHZ)

### 2 Meter Repeater

147.075(+) MHz  
82.5 PL Tone

### Main Repeater Site

Oak Street, Lawrenceville

### Backup Repeater Site

Lanier Mountain, Snellville

### Remote Receive Sites

*Bogan Road*, Buford

Goshen Springs Road,

Norcross

Lanier Mountain, Snellville

July testing session

We had 5 people: 2 passed their tech, 2 passed  
their general, and 1 passed his extra.



## Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta area VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at [www.arrl-ga.org](http://www.arrl-ga.org)

### **First Saturday, Even Months**

9:00AM  
EOC Building  
Butch Nitz, AF4FS  
(770) 968-8780

### **First Wednesday**

7:00 PM  
ARRL/VEC  
Roberts School  
4681 School Street,  
Acworth  
Jodi Escher AG4BK  
770-387-1591

### **Second Tuesday**

7:00PM  
Walton EMC  
3645 Lenora Church Rd,  
Snellville  
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA  
(770) 498-7759

### **Second Saturday, Odd Months**

ARRL VEC  
8:30 AM  
Stone Mountain Methodist  
Church  
5312 West Mountain St.  
Stone Mountain  
Bob Varone, W4ETN  
(770) 978-3179

### **Third Saturday**

CA VEC  
9:00AM  
Marietta First United  
Methodist Church Room 305,  
56 Whitlock Ave  
Marietta  
David Still, WB4RRD  
(770) 973-2566

### **Fourth Tuesday**

ARRL VEC  
7:00 PM  
United Way Service Center  
6279 Fairburn Road,  
Douglasville

### **Third Sunday**

W5YI VEC  
3:00 - 5:00 PM  
Lawrenceville Masonic Lodge  
465 South Perry Street  
Lawrenceville, GA 30044  
770-963-5721

### **Fourth Sunday**

2:30 PM  
Georgia Tech Student Center  
Room 301  
David Ziskind, KE4QLH  
(404) 966-6864

## Metro Atlanta Club Meetings

### First Tuesday

**Kennehoochee ARC**  
Southern Polytechnic  
State University  
Meeting begins at 7:30 PM  
Talk In 146.880(-)

### Second Monday

**Georgia Tech ARC**  
Room W218  
Van Leer Electrical  
Engineering Bldg.  
Georgia Tech Campus  
Meeting at 7:00 PM

### First Thursday

**Atlanta Radio Club**  
Georgia Red Cross HQ  
1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta  
Meeting is at 7:30 PM  
Talk In -146.820(-)

### **N.E. Georgia ARC**

Commerce Public Library  
Meeting is at 6:30 PM  
Talk In - 147.225(+)  
PL 123.0

### Second Thursday

**Alford Memorial Radio Club**  
*Annistown Road Baptist Church*  
*Intersection of Annistown Rd*  
*& Spain Rd*  
*Stone Mountain*  
Dinner at 6:00 PM  
Meeting at 7:30 PM  
Talk In - 146.760(-)

### Third Tuesday

**North Fulton Amateur Radio  
League**  
Alpharetta EOC located at  
2970 Webb Bridge Road, in Al-  
pharetta  
meeting at 7:30 PM  
Talk In - 145.47(-)

### First Saturday

**North GA QRP Club**  
Wieuca Baptist Church on  
Peachtree Rd/Wieuca, 10 AM

## GOALS FOR FIELD DAY 2009

(Name and call sign withheld so I won't embarrass myself if I don't achieve them)

The 2008 Field Day was great. I had fun, got to operate, ate wonderful meals and enjoyed the fellowship of other hams. I did notice two opportunities. Well, I noticed one and another has been brought to my attention – repeatedly. We had only one CW station in operation at any given time. Having paid attention to the planning I know we don't have as many active CW operators as we once did so only one station makes sense. There were times, however, when there was plenty of CW on one band while we operated another and there were other times when we weren't operating the CW station at all. I'm going to help change that and, in doing so, I will address the other opportunity.

A certain individual has informed us, in case we didn't know, that said individual made more contacts than anyone else. A 10 meter opening on Sunday morning gave him the opportunity and he made the most of it. Over 200 contacts! And each one worth a point before the multipliers. All of us had the chance to operate more and any one of us could have been in a position to casually mention that we made the most contacts (and thus bask in the glory of one of hamdoms more significant achievements) but he did it this year and should be congratulated. (Okay, I'm jealous.)

But a CW contact is worth 2 points before the multipliers and I'm supposed to know CW. I do, but not well enough to operate at Field Day speeds. We only have one CW station but any station can switch to another band and mode as long as they operate in that band and mode for at least 20 minutes. So next year I'm going to operate a CW station. I'm going to improve my speed so that I won't embarrass the club. I'm going to operate the CW station when the really good operators get tired and I'm going to switch another station to CW when an SSB band dies.

I set that goal – to operate CW next year – as we were packing up on Sunday. Now I'll set another. I'm going to score more points than this year's high scoring SSB operator. I'll still have fun, eat great food and enjoy the fellowship of other hams and I will casually (and frequently) mention who scored the most points.

[Wirewize - Welcome! Tips from The Kim Komando Radio Show® & Web site](http://www.wirewize.com/)

<http://www.wirewize.com/>

[Shadow to picture - PICSHADOW Tips from The Kim Komando Radio Show® & Web site](http://www.picshadow.com/)

<http://www.picshadow.com/>

[Synchronizing bookmarks - Tips from The Kim Komando Radio Show® & Web site](http://www.komando.com/tips/index.aspx?id=5131)

<http://www.komando.com/tips/index.aspx?id=5131>

[Encyclopedia Smithsonian: The Smithsonian from A to Z](http://www.si.edu/Encyclopedia%5FSL/)

<http://www.si.edu/Encyclopedia%5FSL/>

[Picreflect - Picture reflection Tips from The Kim Komando Radio Show® & Web site](http://www.picreflect.com/)

<http://www.picreflect.com/>

[Waterford Games & Activities Tips from The Kim Komando Radio Show® & Web site](http://www.waterfordpress.com/entergame.html)

<http://www.waterfordpress.com/entergame.html>

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## SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Turn thy wild wheel through sunshine, storm, and cloud" Cook,  
K7RA, this week reports:

For several days over the past week, we saw a couple of sunspots --but just like other recent dying Solar Cycle 23 spots, they faded quickly. This group, lasting from July 18-20, was number 1000. No sign of Solar Cycle 24 in recent memory, just a couple of false starts. There are no predictions indicating more sunspots for the upcoming week. Predicted planetary A index for the near future is 5, with a slight increase to 8 on August 1 and a large increase to 20 on August 8. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet geomagnetic conditions through the end of the month, except July 27, which is quiet to unsettled. Sunspot numbers for July 17-23 were 0, 11, 12, 11, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 4.9. The 10.7 cm flux was 65, 65.3, 66.4, 65.9, 66.2, 65.8 and 65.5 with a mean of 65.7. Estimated planetary A indices were 5, 5, 3, 3, 6, 11 and 16 with a mean of 7.

Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 5, 1, 2, 5, 9 and 12 with a mean of 5.3. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>>.

This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Alfred, Lord Tennyson's "Idylls of the King."

### W1AW/KL7 to Operate from Arctic Circle:

Just 300 miles south of the Alaskan Arctic Ocean -- where the Arctic Circle crosses the Dalton Highway (66 degrees, 33 minutes north) -- W1AW/KL7 will be on the air (grid square BP56) July 26-August 10 on all bands from 160-6 meters. This ARRL 2008 Alaska State Convention Special Event Station plans to run two HF stations operating CW, SSB and digital, one satellite station and one station devoted to 146.52 MHz. The Alaskan summer skies are ablaze with gray line-enhanced propagation effects, providing six to eight hour spurts of activity to most of the ham radio world. W1AW/KL7 plans to be active from 0600 UTC-1400 UTC to maximize gray line propagation. From Alaska, signals will take off in both directions at the same time: Europe to the East on one side, with Asia to the West on the other side. For an illustration of how Arctic gray line propagation works, see page 21 in the August 2008 issue of QST.

The 2008 Alaska ARRL Convention will run from August 1-4, 2008 in Anchorage. For more information, please see the W1AW/KL7 Web site <<http://www.akhamfest.com/arcticcirclespecial.php>>.

### Check out these Links from the ARRL Web site.

<http://wedothatradio.wordpress.com/>  
<http://www.hello-radio.org/hello/becomeaham.html>  
<http://emergency-radio.org/>  
<http://www.hello-radio.org/hello/>

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## ELMER

You've got your Technician License. Now what? What kind of radio do you buy? Do you need an HT or a mobile rig for your vehicle? Can one radio do both? How do you program it? Where do you use it? Where do you go to keep on learning? How do you get into HF?

The answer is an Elmer, someone who knows more about radio than you. Even those who've been a ham for only a few months know things a new licensee doesn't know. In fact, they may know what a new ham wants or needs to know. Things an older ham may not recognize as important or things they believe everyone already knows.

So how can you help? If you're willing to be an Elmer let Dave (W4DTR) know. The duties of an Elmer are:

- Make your phone number available to new hams

- Let the club secretary include your phone number in his correspondence with new hams

- Hook up new hams with veteran hams for specific projects

- Introduce yourself at meetings so folks know who you are

- Let the program manager know if you receive sufficient requests about a specific topic to warrant a program on that subject

So now you've got your license. What's next? Contact the GARS Elmer. There will be more about the program on the web page.

Dave is setting up the Elmer program and if you would like to help out a new HAM give Dave a call.

If you are looking for help, Give Dave a call. He can put you in touch with an Elmer.



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

## RENEWAL

**Applicant Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date**     /     /



## GARS

### APPAREL ORDER FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

CALL: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME TO BE EMBROIDERED: \_\_\_\_\_

CALL SIGN TO BE EMBROIDERED: \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	SIZE	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
<b>T-SHIRT</b>				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$20.00	
White WITH name & call			\$20.00	
<b>GOLF SHIRT -- WITHOUT name &amp; call</b>				
Red			\$24.00	
White			\$24.00	
<b>GOLF SHIRT -- WITH name &amp; call</b>				
Red			\$28.00	
White			\$28.00	
<b>SWEATSHIRT</b>				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$30.00	
White WITH name & call			\$30.00	
<b>LIGHTWEIGHT JACKET -- RED ONLY</b>				
WITHOUT name & call			\$31.00	
WITH name & call			\$35.00	
<b>HEAVYWEIGHT JACKET -- RED ONLY</b>				
WITHOUT name & call			\$41.00	
WITH name & call			\$45.00	
<b>GARS BADGE -- WITH name &amp; call</b>			\$9.00	
<b>HAT -- WITHOUT name &amp; call</b>				
Red			\$9.00	
White			\$9.00	
<b>HAT -- WITH name &amp; call</b>				
Red			\$14.00	
White			\$14.00	

**TOTAL ORDER PRICE:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please attach your check made payable to GARS and return to Dick Sandberg, N9SXJ or mail to:*

**GARS**  
**P.O. Box 88**  
**Lilburn, Georgia 30048**

**NOTE:** Please allow at least 4 weeks for delivery of items. Some items may need to be special ordered.

Thanks and 73s! -- Dick N9SXJ

## Using a Mac in the Shack

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A couple of years ago, I decided to switch to the Mac for business use. (I am a freelance website developer.) I haven't regretted it for a second. The thing just seems to work better.

Last October, I decided to switch to a Mac in the shack and purchased a used, iBook G4 Mac laptop. Unfortunately, I can't say that I've never regretted this move. The reason I sometimes regret this choice is that there just aren't as many ham radio programs available for the Mac as there are for the PC, and those that are available are either more expensive than their PC counterparts or don't work as well.

For example, let's take a look at logging programs. When I first started looking, I found one that was kind of expensive (MacLoggerDX—[www.dogparksoftware.com/MacLoggerDX.html](http://www.dogparksoftware.com/MacLoggerDX.html)); one that was free, but didn't want to work so well (RUMLog - <http://www.dl2rum.de/rumsoft/RUMLog.html>); and one that worked OK and cost somewhere in between the first two (Aether - [www.aetherlog.com/](http://www.aetherlog.com/)). Considering that there are at least a dozen logging programs that run on a PC, this was slim pickings.

I ended up purchasing Aether, but was never very happy with it. For one thing, it took forever to do any kind of sort or look up previous QSOs. Another pain was that it carried over none of the information from the previous contact, so you had to enter all of the information from scratch, even if you didn't change frequencies or bands. It also had an odd way of doing notes about a contact, and I was disappointed to find out that it didn't import the notes from the ADIF file I created from the N3FJP logging program I used previously.

For PSK, it's CocoaModem I had much the same experience when looking for a PSK31 program. Instead of a wide variety of PC PSK programs, I only found a couple of Mac programs that decode PSK. Fortunately, I am much happier with my choice here (cocoaModem - [homepage.mac.com/chen/index.html](http://homepage.mac.com/chen/index.html)). It's a great program, with a polished user interface, and it's free, to boot.

The only problem with cocoaModem is that it doesn't support the wide range of digital modes that some of the PC programs do. One I'm interested in is SSTV. Unfortunately, cocoaModem doesn't do SSTV.

A Happy Ending Well, a couple of weeks ago, I'd had enough of Aether and decided to start searching for logging software again. Since RUMLog was still free, I decided to give the new version (v 3.0, March 15, 2008) a go. I'm happy to report that this version likes my computer a lot better, and I like using it a lot!

One of the coolest things is that it did import the notes from my N3FJP ADIF file properly. So, now, when I type in a call sign, the program searches the database, finds all the previous contacts I've had with that station, and then displays them in spreadsheet style WITH the notes. If I've taken notes about a previous conversation, I can pick up right where I left off. Very cool.

It also has a very nice way of showing you what countries you've worked, on what bands you've worked them, and whether or not you've QSLed that country or not. Not only that, it shows what type of QSL you have, either a paper QSL or a Logbook of the World (LOTW) QSL. And, after you supply your user ID and password, it will download your LOTW QSLs and update the appropriate QSO records. Very cool!

Still unresolved is what to use for contesting. None of the programs I've seen so far are useful for contesting, and I think that what I will end up doing is using my old PC laptop running N3FJP or N1MM software. I'm not a big contester, so I think I can live with that.

One thing is for sure—I'm not going back to the PC aside from some niche applications like contesting. The Mac's ease of use and ease of setup has won me over. For information on even more ham radio software for the Mac, go to [www.machamradio.com](http://www.machamradio.com).

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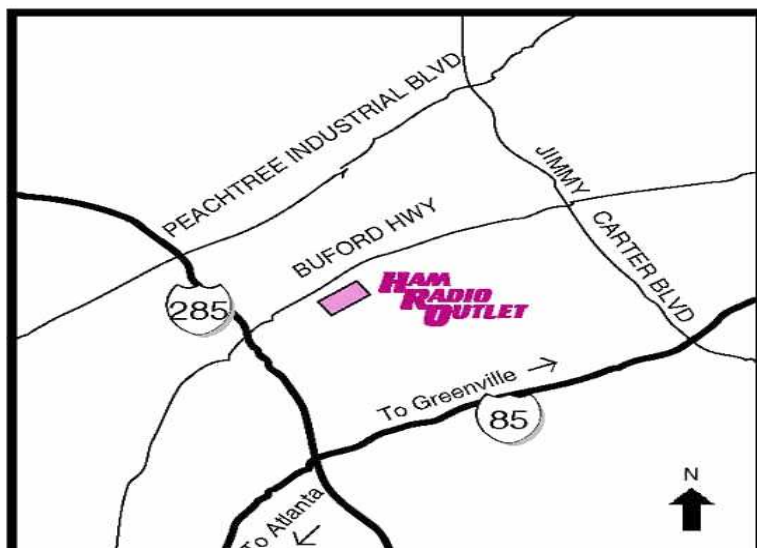
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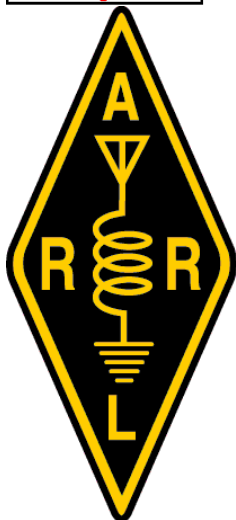
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Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
P.O. Box 88  
Lilburn, GA 30048



To receive the **Garzette** via e mail contact, please contact the membership chairman

### Saturday Morning

### Breakfast

Join us at the Golden Coral  
on Riverside Drive in

Lawrenceville at 7:30 a.m.

### Next Meeting

Tuesday, AUGUST 12th

The Meetings are on the  
Second Tuesday of the  
month 7:30pm at the  
St Marguerite  
D'Youville Church,

85 Gloster Rd NW,

Lawrenceville, GA 30044.  
Just off Highway 29 SW  
of Lawrenceville.

Directions on the Web  
site.

<http://www.gars.org>

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